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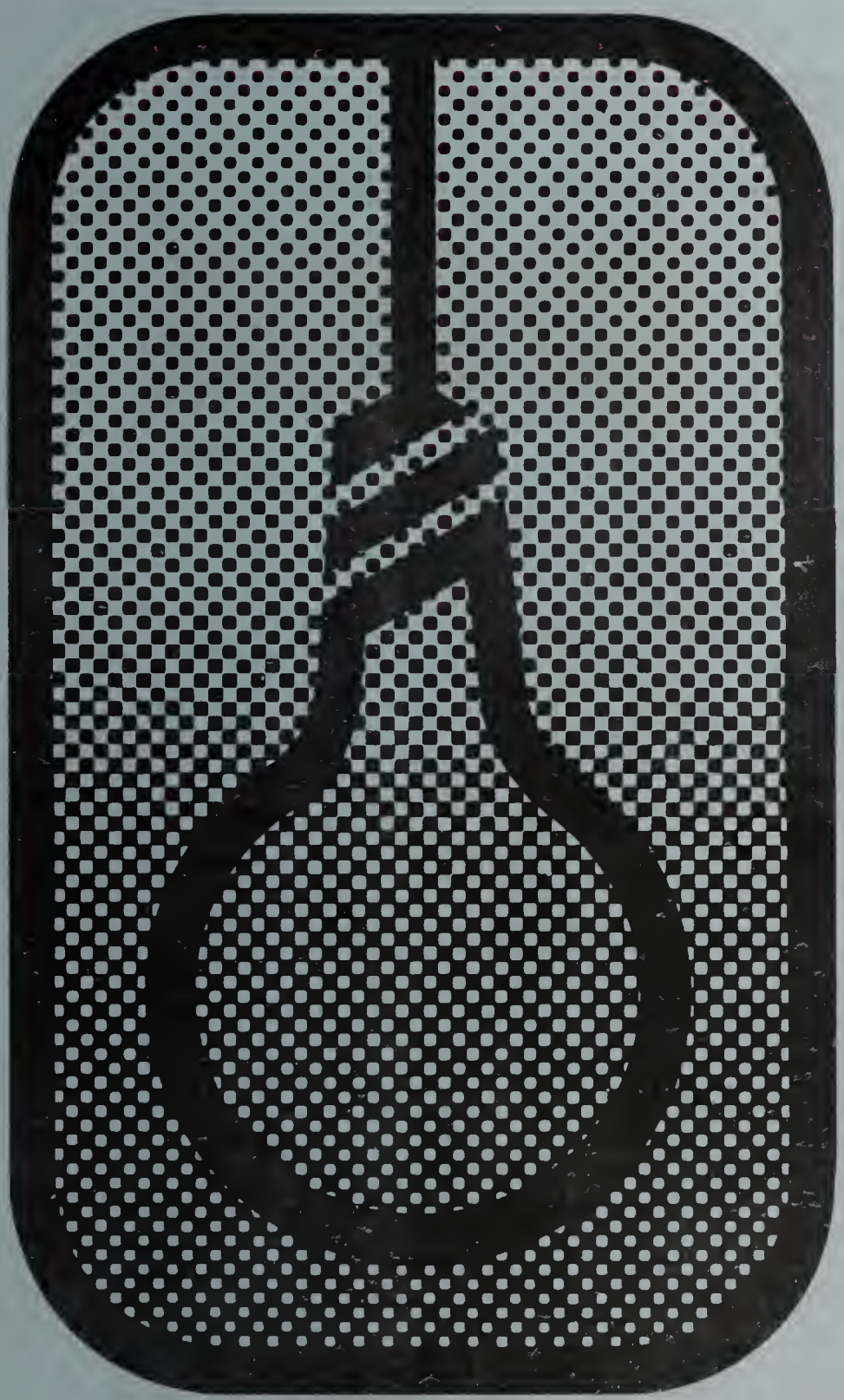
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turned off...

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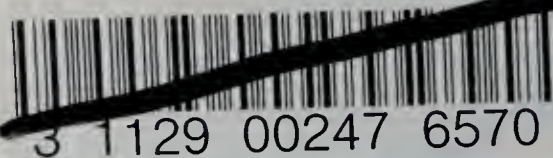
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Turned off...

No heat.
No way to cook.
No lights.
It's no fun.

But it doesn't
have to be that way.



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You can avoid being turned off

if you do something before it happens. If you're having trouble paying any of your utility bills, get in touch with your caseworker immediately. Your caseworker will help you arrange to make your payments in installments. Then you'll be able to pay your back bills at the same time you are paying your current bills — and your service won't be discontinued.

At one time the Department of Public Aid paid over-due bills, but this no longer is the case. You are fully responsible for payment of your bills.

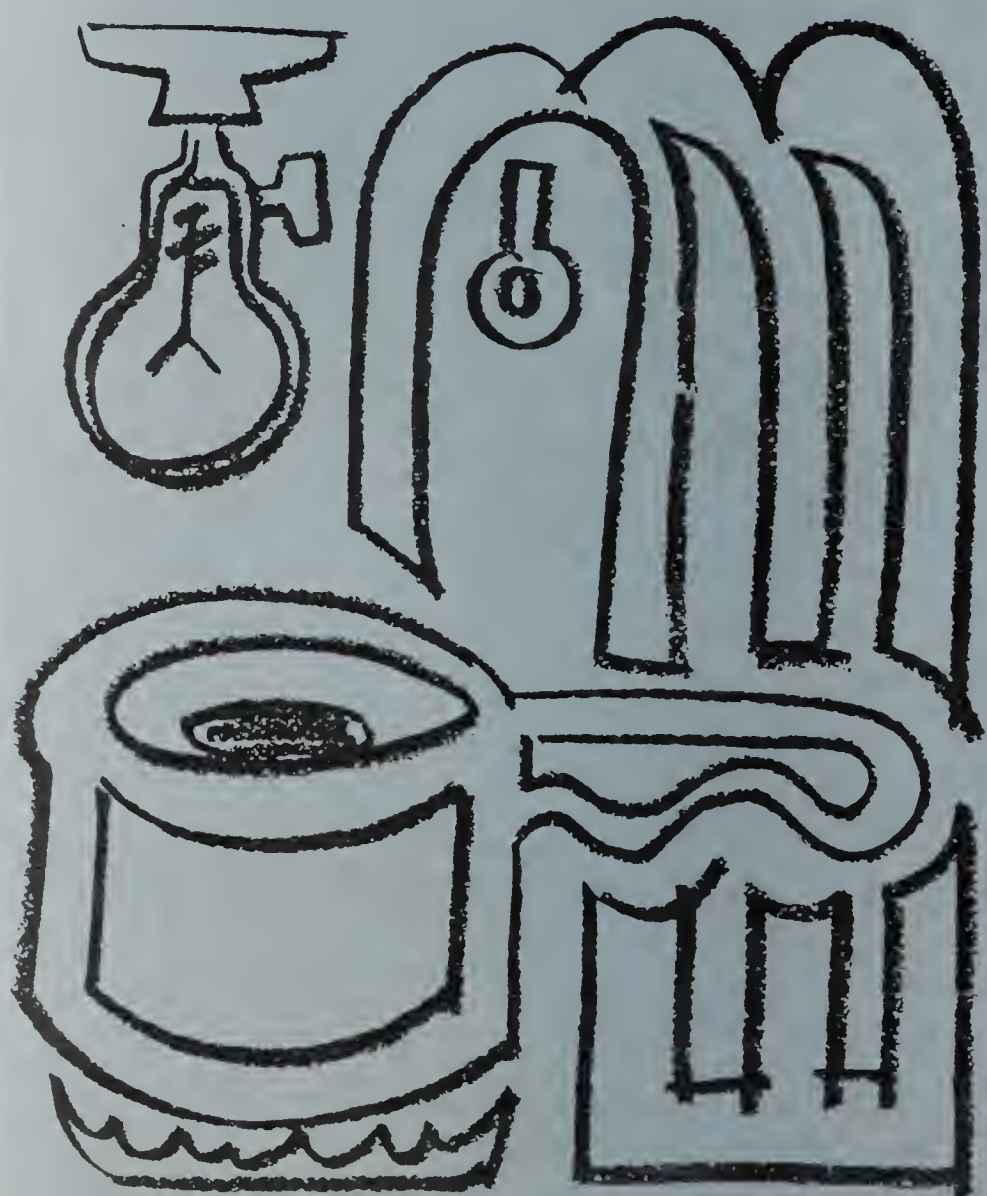
Planning ahead is not easy

especially for the winter months when utility bills run high. The important thing is to let your caseworker know when you're having trouble so that something can be done before you get behind in your payments. If you live in Cook County, budget counselors will help you.

Also, if you cannot budget

your income from month to month, it may be necessary for Public Aid to appoint a protective payee who would advise and assist you and take responsibility for paying your bills.

The important thing is this: Don't wait. Let your caseworker know you need help before you're turned off.



SAVING ENERGY SAVES YOU MONEY!

Use energy to your advantage. When the sun is shining, open curtains and shades to let the heat of the sun into the house. At other times — especially at night — keep curtains and shades closed as insulation against the cold outside.

Don't heat the outdoors. Open and close outside doors as little as possible.

Make your own storm windows. Tack, staple, or tape clear plastic to your windows — either inside or outside — and screen doors.

Check your heating system. Be sure heat vents are not blocked by furniture or any other articles.

Be sure your furnace is working properly. Keep your furnace and the area around it clean. Change or clean the filter several times during the winter.

Set your thermostat as low as you can and still be comfortable. Once you've set it, leave it alone.

Never use a gas range or oven to heat a kitchen. This is a very expensive use of energy.

Use small pans on small burners, not on large burners.

Open your oven and refrigerator only when necessary.

Fix leaky faucets.

Turn off the television when no one is watching.

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**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC AID**

DPA 2184 (N-2-75)